

July 16, 2010

Freedom of Information Officer (6MD-OE)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

VIA E-MAIL: r6foia@epa.gov

FOIA REQUEST

- Fee benefit requested
- Fee waiver requested
- Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting copies of:

-- Test results of all air quality readings reported to or collected by the EPA from the Gulf region beginning April 20, 2010, to the present. This request is limited to readings made in connection to the Macondo oil spill, or which would tend to show changes in air quality due to the oil spill or related use of oil dispersants.

If this request is similar to Freedom of Information Act requests filed with your office by other parties, I would ask that you fulfill this request simultaneously with any of those previous requests.

I would like to receive copies of the information in electronic format.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information related to the April 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This information is of critical and overriding current interest to the public because of the unprecedented environmental and economic damage that is resulting from the spill. This information is being sought on behalf of The Washington Post, a newspaper of national circulation, and is sought for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute to public understanding of government operations and activities related to the oil spill.

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If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees. I request that the material I am seeking be released as it is located, and that release not be delayed until all the responsive material has been located and processed.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

Please provide expedited processing of this request, because it concerns a matter of extreme urgency. As a journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. The public has an urgent need for information about the historic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and government activities that preceded it; delay in release of the information could rob the public of its ability to respond to the spill and related issues in a timely manner. Timely release of the information is also mandated because the public may choose to make changes in programs that seek to prevent future oil spills and may seek to limit damage caused by the ongoing oil spill in the Gulf. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Joe Stephens
Reporter
The Washington Post
1150 15th St. NW
Washington DC 20071

202-334-6723
stephensj@washpost.com

The Washington Post

1150 15th Street N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20071-7403

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